

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2002

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in December was 240,749 metric tons (t). The average daily production rate was 7,766 t, slightly higher than that of the previous month and 18% above the rate for December 2001.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased only slightly from 66.06 cents per pound in November to 66.12 cents per pound in December, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) fluctuated during December. The price range began the month at 49-51 cents per pound. On December 17, the price range increased to 50.0-52.5 cents per pound. On December 23, the price returned to 49-51 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month. According to Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report, the average monthly transaction price for

aluminum UBCs increased slightly from 52.1 cents per pound in November to 52.4 cents per pound in December. The average for the year was 49.1 cents per pound, 2% lower than the 2001 average of 50.2 cents per pound.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased only slightly from 66.12 cents per pound in December 2002 to 66.25 cents per pound in January 2003. On January 7, the American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased to 50.0-52.5 cents per pound. On January 10, the price range fell to 49.0-51.5 cents per pound. On January 24, the price range narrowed to 50.0-51.5 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

Notice

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will no longer print paper copies of the *Mineral Industry Surveys* for mailing list distribution after release of the December 2002 report. The report will continue to be available on the USGS Web site at URL: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

If you would like to receive e-mail notification for future issues of the *Mineral Industry Surveys*, instructions are provided at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/listservices.html>.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks, end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2001: 5/	2,637	1,770	1,210	2,980	2,560	683	3,240	8,860	1,300
2001:									
December	205	133	94	227	227	44	271	703	1,300
2002:									
January	210	147	102	249	272	58	330	789	1,290
February	197	141	93	234	205	52	257	688	1,270
March	220	153	99	252	223	62	285	757	1,320
April	216	148	96	245	221	65	286	747	1,310
May	228	154	98	252	221	76	297	777	1,280
June	225	150	95	245	263	71	334	805	1,320
July	238	145	100	245	228	74	302	785	1,310
August	237	156	101	257	279	77	356	851	1,340
September	227	157	99	257	235	70	305	788	1,360
October	235	160	102	262	196	67	263	760	1,360
November	232	150 r/	97 r/	247 r/	264	64	328	807	1,370
December	241	144	90	234	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-December	2,707	1,810	1,170	2,980	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

r/ Revised. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
2001: 2/	1,810	1,350	946	823	765	706	98	88	13	13	3,630	2,980
2001:												
December	163	120	62	54	50	46	8	7	(3/)	(3/)	284	227
2002:												
January	150	111	80	69	62	57	11	10	1	1	303	249
February	146	108	69	60	61	56	11	10	1	1	287	234
March	152	113	79	69	64	60	11	10	1	1	307	252
April	150	112	71	62	63	58	13	12	1	1	298	245
May	152	113	73	63	68	63	13	12	(3/)	(3/)	307	252
June	150	112	65	56	70	65	12	11	(3/)	(3/)	298	245
July	149	111	66	56	74	69	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	299	245
August	151	112	76	66	74	69	11	10	(3/)	(3/)	313	257
September	150	112	78	68	72	67	11	10	(3/)	(3/)	311	257
October	151	112	79	68	77	71	11	10	(3/)	(3/)	317	262
November	149	111	71 r/	61 r/	71	66	11	10	(3/)	(3/)	302	247
December	149	111	64	55	64	60	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	286	234
January-December	1,800	1,340	871	753	820	761	133	120	6	6	3,630	2,980

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN DECEMBER 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	124,000	149,000	92,100	111,000
Integrated aluminum companies	64,000	64,000	55,100	55,100
Independent mill fabricators	53,500	64,200	49,800	59,800
Foundries	7,480	8,980	6,640	7,960
Other consumers	360	432	360	427
Total	249,000	286,000	204,000	234,000

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

	December			January-December 2/		
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 3/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts 3/	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	25,200 r/	85,500	73,900	36,900	944,000	934,000
Can stock clippings	2,110 r/	16,600	16,900	1,780	224,000	225,000
Other clippings	5,440 r/	11,200	11,200	5,440	133,000	135,000
Borings and turnings	4,540 r/	18,500	18,500	4,540	229,000	229,000
Dross and skimmings	2,710	34,300	34,300	2,710	410,000	410,000
Total new scrap	40,000 r/	166,000	155,000	51,300	1,940,000	1,930,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,700 r/	31,100	31,100	11,700	392,000	390,000
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,780 r/	3,700	3,550	1,930	28,900	28,900
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	31,200	48,500	50,600	29,000	695,000	699,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	4,010 r/	8,260	8,260	4,010	106,000	108,000
Total old scrap	48,700 r/	91,500	93,500	46,700	1,220,000	1,230,000
Sweated pig	149	977	977	149	11,700	11,800
Total all classes	88,800 r/	259,000	249,000	98,100	3,170,000	3,170,000

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes revised data from previous month(s).

3/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2002 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	December				January-December 3/	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	4,570	1,520	1,520	4,570	20,300	20,300
380 and variations	5,360	32,600	32,600	5,370	398,000	397,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,180	4,060	4,080	3,160	49,100	49,100
No. 319 and variations	9,890	11,100	11,100	9,940	134,000	135,000
F-132 alloy and variations	2,030	1,980	1,980	2,030	23,900	23,800
Al-Zn alloys	630	59	59	630	704	790
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	282	282	91	2,130	2,130
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	77	77	--	2,180	2,180
Other 4/	5,030	8,890	8,890	5,040	112,000	112,000
Wrought alloys:						
Total all alloys	41,300	78,000	76,600	42,800	952,000	950,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	4,910	XX	XX	73,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,660	XX	XX	44,000	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	423	XX	XX	6,840	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 5/	XX	69,000	XX	XX	828,000	XX

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes revised data from previous month(s).

4/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

5/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Argentina	5,110	74,600	60	581	--	404	5,170	75,600
Australia	7,040	89,500	47	108	--	125	7,090	89,800
Bahrain	1,690	16,500	1,850	16,800	--	--	3,540	33,300
Belgium	--	(2/)	438	8,230	--	450	438	8,680
Brazil	1,870	33,300	929	2,530	352	14,500	3,150	50,400
Canada	126,000	1,470,000	37,200	423,000	25,900	269,000	189,000	2,170,000
France	47	1,130	484	5,720	63	3,040	594	9,890
Germany	46	2,260	4,920	55,600	157	4,750	5,120	62,600
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	7,730	--	7,730
Hungary	--	--	597	8,310	--	--	597	8,310
Italy	(2/)	80	319	2,280	--	20	319	2,380
Japan	36	495	653	8,320	12	249	700	9,060
Korea, Republic of	--	3,510	478	5,100	--	99	478	8,700
Mexico	351	4,410	1,010	14,000	7,030	56,100	8,350	74,500
Netherlands	20	406	201	2,540	--	1,570	222	4,520
Norway	--	3,680	14	106	--	--	14	3,780
Russia	95,900	610,000	3,600	55,900	930	25,200	100,000	691,000
South Africa	18	15,900	3,530	28,300	--	8	3,550	44,300
Spain	15	615	16	240	--	--	32	855
Sweden	--	4	333	2,890	--	143	333	3,030
Switzerland	831	10,000	299	3,190	--	100	1,130	13,300
Ukraine	--	--	--	20	--	--	--	20
United Arab Emirates	3,890	54,400	--	--	--	623	3,890	55,100
United Kingdom	20	799	95	7,530	187	4,260	302	12,600
Venezuela	20,700	185,000	1,400	19,000	744	6,980	22,800	211,000
Other	138	26,000	5,750	65,500	2,810	34,600	8,690	126,000
Total	264,000	2,610,000	64,200	736,000	38,200	430,000	366,000	3,770,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2002 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November	November	January- November
Australia	17	126	198	1,740	119	573	333	2,440
Belgium	55	321	436	3,820	--	59	491	4,200
Brazil	1	115	2,440	26,000	--	18	2,440	26,200
Canada	10,000	91,000	38,300	437,000	14,100	192,000	62,400	720,000
China	26	200	3,130	29,300	21,500	185,000	24,600	214,000
Czech Republic	--	(2/)	7	35	--	12	7	48
Dominican Republic	--	35	16	579	--	--	16	614
France	1	100	439	4,400	--	6	440	4,510
Germany	20	1,370	229	2,510	--	207	249	4,080
Hong Kong	27	153	248	3,780	1,140	7,520	1,420	11,500
India	129	241	9	253	513	4,870	652	5,360
Israel	3	80	68	1,350	--	28	71	1,460
Italy	1	14	159	1,890	--	39	160	1,940
Japan	70	3,230	625	8,470	2,800	24,800	3,490	36,500
Korea, Republic of	62	643	312	6,970	2,560	41,300	2,930	48,900
Malaysia	3	62	26	546	9	533	38	1,140
Mexico	8,670	89,800	8,620	105,000	5,310	81,100	22,600	276,000
Netherlands	21	116	15	763	46	314	83	1,190
Russia	--	19	4	30	--	9	4	58
Saudi Arabia	--	(2/)	122	13,500	--	--	122	13,500
Singapore	34	220	52	1,990	12	194	98	2,400
Spain	3	61	63	793	--	501	65	1,360
Sweden	--	(2/)	38	624	--	5	38	629
Taiwan	6	220	274	5,810	2,990	25,500	3,270	31,500
Thailand	1	1	581	8,310	--	770	582	9,080
United Kingdom	94	578	631	8,290	21	591	747	9,460
Venezuela	2	6	916	7,470	--	1	918	7,480
Other	65	584	2,450	27,000	425	4,000	2,940	31,600
Total	19,400	189,000	60,400	708,000	51,500	569,000	131,000	1,470,000

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.